

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the)	
)	
Suspension of the Educator)	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
)	
Certificate of Clarissa G. Hallman)	
)	
Certificate # 189998)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 7, 2004. On May 11, 2004, the State Board of Education suspended the certificate of Clarissa Grant Hallman for failure to repay her outstanding loan with the Department of Education. Ms. Hallman's certificate was reinstated on July 27, 2004, after payment was received. Ms. Hallman's check subsequently was returned for insufficient funds. On November 22, 2004, Ms. Hallman was personally served with written notice of the returned check and the requirement that she submit the payment due within ten days. To date she has not submitted the payments. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to again suspend Ms. Hallman's certificate until she repays her outstanding loan with the State of South Carolina obtained through the Center for Teacher Education, Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA).

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Hallman holds a valid certificate, with over five years of teaching experience. She is currently under contract with the Kershaw County School District. On September 27, 2001, Ms. Hallman signed a promissory note with the State of South Carolina to obtain a loan of \$2300 to pay for the costs of applying for certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). One of the terms of that agreement was that Ms. Hallman agreed to pay a \$300 non-refundable application fee if she withdrew from the application

process prior to the submission of the required portfolio to NBTPS. Ms. Hallman did withdraw prior to that date and did not repay the \$300. As a result, the State Board of Education suspended Ms. Hallman's certificate. On July 27, 2004, Ms. Hallman submitted a check for \$300 and her certificate was reinstated. However, on October 5, 2004, the Department of Education received notice that Ms. Hallman's check was returned for insufficient funds. Ms. Hallman was notified on November 22, 2004, that her certificate would be suspended again unless payment was received within ten days. Payment has not been received.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that there is substantial evidence supporting its decision to suspend Ms. Hallman's certificate # 189998 from the date of this Order until she has satisfied her financial obligation in the amount of \$300 to the State of South Carolina as established in the loan agreement referenced above. At the end of the suspension period if Ms. Hallman wants her certificate reinstated, she may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Teacher Certification of the Department.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Mary E. Jones

Dr. Mary E. Jones

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
December 7, 2004